



National Maritime Day 2006 And the Maritime Matters Campaign

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As plans take shape for National Maritime Day 2006 in the District of Columbia and around the United States, organizations whose mission it is to promote the American maritime industry are realizing that recent news events have presented the industry an unprecedented opportunity.

Many ports, as well as various other maritime organizations, including all 52 chapters of The Propeller Club of the United States, are planning observances for National Maritime Day, which is May 22. Those events are listed on a nationwide calendar on the MARAD website (www.marad.dot.gov).

The effort to raise the profile of National Maritime Day is part of an ongoing campaign called Maritime Matters, a joint effort of MARAD, American Association of Port Authorities, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Council, Inc., The Propeller Club of the United States, National Waterways Conference, Inc., National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other maritime organizations. Information kits about the maritime industry also are available on the MARAD website.

Left to Right: MARAD ships Diamond State, Sirius and Wright in the Port of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

Photo by Brian Blower



National Maritime Day events in the District will include a medals ceremony in the courtyard of the U.S. Department of Transportation Headquarters. Merchant mariners will be honored for their outstanding work in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita recovery and relief efforts on the Gulf Coast. A National Maritime Day mass will be celebrated at St. Dominic Church by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick. A wreath laying ceremony will be conducted at the Military Sealift Command Headquarters. Details on these events also are available on MARAD's website.